

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8-9, 11, 13, 14, 17-19, 64, and 67-98 are pending in the present application. Applicants have amended all pending claims, largely to include the word “design” after the word “objective,” and not for reasons related to patentability. Reexamination and reconsideration of all of the claims, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowance for claims 67-98.

35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 13, 14, 17-19, and 64 under 35 U.S.C. §103 based on U.S. Patent 6,483,638 to Shafer et al. (“Shafer 638”) in view of U.S. Patent 4,108,794 to Yonekubo (“Yonekubo”) or U.S. Patent 5,825,043 to Suwa (“Suwa”).

The Office Action indicated that claims 3, 9, and 11 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim “but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.”

Applicants have taken the single glass material aspect of claim 9 and incorporated that limitation into claim 1. Applicants have amended claim 9 to recite limitations relating to the Applicants submit that by this amendment, claim 1 and all claims dependent therefrom are novel and unobvious in view of Shafer, Yonekubo, and/or Suwa, and therefore patentable.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants thus respectfully submit that claims 1, 67, and 75 are allowable over the references of record, and that all claims dependent from these allowable independent claims are allowable as they depend from an allowable base claim.

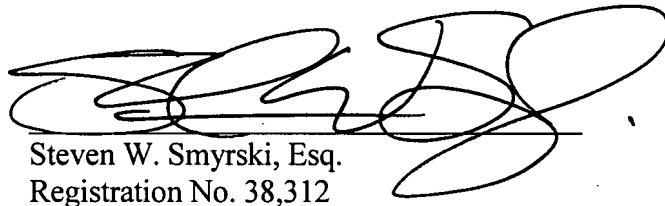
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all claims of the present application are in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of all of the claims, as amended, are respectfully requested and allowance of all the claims at an early date is solicited.

Applicants believe that no fees are due in accordance with this Response beyond those included herewith. Should any fees be due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 502026.

Respectfully submitted,

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